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## THE FULLER LIFE FOR RURAL YOUNG PEOPLE

A radio talk by H. W. Gilbertson, Federal Extension Service, broadcast Saturday, September 4, 1937 in the National 4-H Club program, by 84 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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Compared with the time when their grandparents were young folks the farm young people of today have their time much more fully taken up with interesting things to do. Some of us who are parents often feel that there are so many organizations and so many demands on the time of our children to do things away from home that they do not have enough time for necessary work at home.

However, present-day authorities on the problems of training young people for their life work remind us that for their greatest development young people must be helped to live an active enriched life now, with an opportunity to do many things which interest and satisfy them.

Farm young people always seem to have work to do. Increased knowledge about how best to do farm and home work gained through 4-H Clubs and vocational training and the realization that their work helps to increase the family income, produce more good things to eat or beautify the home, gives farm young people increased interest in and satisfaction from their work.

Four-H Club members hold their own meetings. They conduct demonstrations and discuss topics of special interest to young people, such as self-improvement, how to supplement their individual income without reducing the family income, how to lay the foundations for good health, and better ways of spending leisure time. A part of the meeting is often set aside for enjoying good music, or other group recreation. Many of the young people above 4-H Club age also undertake home projects which are money-making enterprises, accepting full responsibility for some farm or home enterprise, such as care of the poultry. The young women take over the baking or sewing for the family. These projects, carried on under special guidance from the county extension agents, who furnish bulletins and counsel, are discussed at the county or local meetings.

Not satisfied with limiting their activities to their own work, many of these young people's groups take up community service activities, such as helping to establish or maintain community or county parks, picnic or play grounds, or to make the County Fair more worth attending. A few days ago I attended the Tippecanoe County, Indiana, 4-H Fair participated in by most of the 1200 4-H Club members of that county. Nearly 200 4-H Club members served on the committees which helped to arrange for and look after these 4-H exhibits. Members of our extension groups often undertake to provide wholesome plays, music festivals and other entertainment for their communities and counties.

You young folks will find it interesting to talk with your grandparents and parents about what they did as young people for self and community improvement. Your problem is not in finding more things to do but in deciding which are most interesting and helpful to you.

You who are 4-H Club members or members of extension groups for farm young people above 4-H Club age will find that this training, your school work and your farm experience are all helping fit you to become better citizens, better farmers, and better homemakers. The aim in each community and county organization

undertaking this work is to meet the present and most important needs in the lives of all rural young folks.

Your lives will be largely what you make them through your present thinking and your habits of work and play. Your life can be an empty mere existence if you neglect your opportunities for getting the most helpful training and experience, or it can be enriched from day to day and filled with worthwhile study, recreation and work which will give you recognition for community service and the personal satisfaction that comes from an active life. To be most satisfying, life must be fully taken up with worthwhile work, wholesome recreation and a feeling that we are making progress toward becoming better neighbors and more useful citizens.